

# SYNOPSIS OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

by Edwin M. Cotto

[www.adventistdefenseleague.com](http://www.adventistdefenseleague.com)

**INTRO:** This will be a brief synopsis of the Ten Commandments.

1. Four ways that God's will may be known:

- **First**, by REVELATION (or "command"): See Gen. 3:17, Exo. 20.
- **Second**, by NATURE: See Rom. 1:18-20, 32.
- **Third**, by CONSCIENCE: See Rom. 2:14-15.
- **Fourth**, by PRINCIPLE: A principle is a fundamental truth, rule, idea.
- In Gen 3:6, 4:5, coveting, stealing, murder and lying were fundamentally wrong - cf. **Rom. 4:15**.
- Cain is "angry" with his brother without a cause, which is essentially murder (Matt. 5:21-22).
- Principles are laws of truth one lives by (be fair, be honest, be loving, etc).
- Doing the opposite brings retributive judgement (**on Eve**, Gen. 3:16, **on Cain**, 4:10-15).
- Evidently, principles do not need to be codified.
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Similar to how natural law exists w/o being codified, i.e. Cause/Effect, Attraction, Movement etc.
- Natural law exists, not by legislation, but by God, nature and reason. **So with Moral law.**

2. Genesis accounts for God's Ten Commandments in principle:

- 1: **WORSHIP GOD:** Abraham and his servant worship the one true God (Gen 22:5; 24:26, 48, 52).
- 2: **IDOLS PROHIBITED:** Jacob's impulse to put away idols implies he understood it was wrong (Gen 35:1-4).
- 3: **GOD'S NAME:** Man began calling "on the name of the Lord" (Gen.4:26 cf. Psa.99:1-3, contrast with Gen.11:4).
- 4: **THE SABBATH:** The 7th day sanctified (2:2-3, Mark 2:27). Weekly cycle operating (2:1-3; 4:3; 7:4,10; 8:10,12).
- 5: **HONOR PARENTS:** Ham's irreverence towards Noah (9:22-27), Lot's daughters deceive Lot (Gen. 19:31-38).
- 6: **MURDER:** Cain kills his brother (Gen. 4:8), God forbids it (Gen. 9:5-6).
- 7: **ADULTERY:** Lamech/bigamy (4:19) Joseph's refusal (39:9), Sodom (Gen.19), adultery involves guilt (26:9-10).
- 8: **STEALING:** Eve steals (3:6). Rachel steals (31:19) Jacob's defense implies that he knew stealing was wrong.
- 9: **LYING:** Cain lies about killing Abel (Gen. 4:9), Rebekah's deception/Jacob/Laban Lies (Gen 27,29:21-26).
- 10: **COVETING:** Eve covets the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6), Shechem covet's Dinah (Gen. 34).
- ALL THESE PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD THE PRINCIPLES OF RIGHT AND WRONG EMBEDDED IN THE DECALOGUE.

3. God's Law *before* Mt. Sinai:

- **Adam:** Mark 2:27 (cf. Acts 17:26).
- **Noah:** 2 Peter 2:5 (cf. Psalm 119:172).
- **Abraham:** Genesis 27:5. **Isaac/Jacob:** Because Abraham would teach his sons (Gen. 18:19).
- **Job:** Job 31:1-34

# SYNOPSIS OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

by Edwin M. Cotto

[www.adventistdefenseleague.com](http://www.adventistdefenseleague.com)

- **Moses** instructed to keep and command the Sabbath, statutes, Laws (Exo. 16, 18:16).
4. The Ten Commandments are far-reaching:
- Psalm 119:96: His commandment is exceeding BROAD. EXAMPLES:
  - God compares Israel's idol worship to adultery (Jeremiah 3:9, Ezekiel 22:37)
  - Paul said that covetousness is the same as idolatry (Colossians 3:5)
  - Stealing violates the second commandment (Romans 2:22).
  - Showing favoritism somehow breaks God's Ten Commandments (James 2:9-10).
  - Committing rebellion is as committing witchcraft, which breaks the first two commandments (1 Samuel 15:23).
  - James 2:10 tells us that breaking one commandment causes us to actually break them all.
5. The Ten Commandments in the New Testament:
- **Romans 13:8-10:** Love is the keeping of the Ten Commandments, including the Sabbath.
  - **1 Cor. 7:19:** Circumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.
  - 1: **WORSHIP GOD:** Jesus affirmed that we are to worship only God (Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8).
  - 2: **NO IDOLS:** James/Paul prohibit idols (Acts 15:20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 2 Cor. 6:9-10).
  - 3: **GOD'S NAME:** Jesus repeated that we should not use God's name in a vain manner (Matthew 5:33-37).
  - 4: **THE SABBATH:** Jesus' example (Luke 4:16) instruction (Matt. 12:12), His followers (Luke 23:56), Paul's example (Acts 17:2). The seventh day remains as a representative of spiritual rest (Heb. 3-4:4, 9-10).
  - 5: **HONOR PARENTS:** The command to honor our father and mother still applies (Matt 15:4, Eph. 6:2).
  - 6: **MURDER:** Jesus confirmed that the command not to murder is still in force (Matthew 19:18).
  - 7: **ADULTERY:** The command not to commit adultery still applies (Matt. 19:18, 2 Cor. 6:9-10).
  - 8: **STEALING:** Jesus/Paul taught that the command not to steal continues (Matt. 19:18, 2 Cor. 6:9-10).
  - 9: **LYING:** Jesus/Paul listed the prohibition against lying as continuing to be in force (Matt 19:18, Col.3:9).
  - 10: **COVETING:** Jesus/Paul taught that Christians should not covet (Luke 12:15; Rom 7:7, 2 Cor. 6:9-10).
6. The Ten Commandments are Ten Promises:
- Note the very first verse of Exodus 20.
  - God's "word" is creative "and God said, LET..."
  - His words accomplish (Isa. 55:11).
  - God's word was manifest in Jesus (John 1:1-14).
  - Jesus is the living representative of the Law (Psa. 119:172, cf. 1 Cor. 1:30).
  - The Law is spiritual (Rom. 7:14) I must be spiritual (Rom. 8:7-9).
  - God's Word in us causes us to obey.